THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum has been forwarded to the Govt. of Punjab for appropriate action.

**Problems of handloom weavers and handloom industry**

1615. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no visible improvement in the conditions of the handloom weavers and handloom industry as a result of the implementation of the 1985 Textile Policy;

(b) whether these views were also shared by the Planning Commission; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not taking steps in keeping with Government's earlier policies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir. The Textile Policy, 1985 is aimed at harmonious development of all the three sectors of the Textile Industry, viz. handloom, powerloom and mill sector. However, Government have recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain, Member, Planning Commission to review the implementation of the Textile Policy, 1985.

(b) No ,Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Smuggling of groundnut oil**

1616. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundnut oil worth of Rs. 400 crores is smuggled out of India to Pakistan, Middle-East and Arabian countries every year; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Available reports do not indicate smuggling of groundnut oil from India to Pakistan, Middle-East and Arabian countries

(b) Government is firmly resolved to combat smuggling activities. For this purpose, the anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. This has resulted in considerable increase in the seizure of contraband over the years as given in the table below:

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Value of seizures |
|---|---|
| 1986 . . . | 217 52 |
| 1987 . . . | 251.47 |
| 1988* . . . | 443 15 |

*Figure is provisional.

**NRI Investment**

1617. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase of NRI investments in the recent past in the fields of electronics and engineering goods; and

(b) the name of the country from which the largest number of NRI investors hail from?